NUMB. XV.] THE [NOVEMBER 4, 1786

PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

Price SIX-PENCE.] SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1786. [VOL. I.

PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY, convened at Philadelphia.

(Continued from our laſt.)

Saturday, September 2, A. M.

READ, and ordered to lie on the table, a petition preſented by Mr. Lilly, from ſundry inhabitants of York town, county of Cumberland, praying that the number of repreſentatives in the aſſembly of this ſtate, may be reduced.

On motion of Mr. Clymer, read a third time, the bill for relieving the owners of unimproved lands in this ſtate from the inconveniencies they labour under from the preſent mode of enforcing the payment of taxes aſſeſſed thereon.

The firſt clauſe, ordering "the aſſeſſors of the ſeveral townſhips in this ſtate, to make a return to the commiſſioners, of all the tracts of land in their townſhips, on which the owner, or a tenant under him, does not reſide, and alſo ordering the commiſſioners to ſend a fair tranſcript of thoſe returns to the ſtate treaſurer, within two months after they receive the ſame," was agreed to.

The ſecond clauſe was then read, as follows:

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, That the treaſurer of this ſtate for the time being, ſhall cauſe to be publiſhed in one or more of the public newſpapers, in the city of Philadelphia, the ſaid copy or tranſcript, which he ſhall from time to time receive from the commiſſioners of the reſpective counties, within after he ſhall receive the ſame. And the owners of all ſuch lands as ſhall be contained in ſuch returns are hereby authoriſed to pay all ſuch taxes or aſſeſſments as ſhall be laid upon the ſame, to the treaſurer of the ſtate for the time being; who is hereby empowered to receive them. And if the owner or owners of ſuch lands or ſome perſon for them, ſhall not pay the taxes or aſſeſſment which ſhall be laid upon the ſame, to the ſaid treaſurer, within months after the firſt publication to be made in any newſpaper or newſpapers as before directed, the treaſurer of the ſtate for the time being, ſhall then tranſmit to the commiſſioners of the reſpective counties in the ſtate, an account of all ſuch owners of land who ſhall not have paid to him the aſſeſſment on their lands, and the commiſſioners may thereupon proceed to enforce the payment of taxes, in ſuch manner as they are now authoriſed by law to do."

Mr. Clymer moved that the firſt blank ſhould be filled up with ten days.

Agreed to.

He then moved that the ſecond blank be filled up with three.

Mr. Whitehill objected to allowing ſo long a time. It would be a means of protracting the collection of the revenues of the ſtate. It was only calculated to anſwer the convenience of a few gentlemen in the city. There were two months allowed for making the returns, ſometime more for tranſmitting them to the treaſurer, and then three months after his advertiſing, to be allowed for the payment of the taxes; ſo that with other delays, which might be expected, little ſhort of a year would elapſe before the amount of the tax would come into the treaſury.

Mr. Clymer admitted there was great juſtice in what the gentleman had advanced. And the firſt clauſe might be reconſidered, in order to ſhorten the time mentioned therein, but, as to the time moved for, in the preſent caſe, it was not too much, for the bill concerned numbers of people not reſiding in Philadelphia, who had few opportunities of conſulting the public papers.

Mr. Morris ſaid if the citizens of Philadelphia only were concerned, he ſhould have had no objection to limit the time even to one month. They were at leaſt as punctual in the payment of their taxes as any other part of the ſtate. But inhabitants of the neighbouring counties were intereſted; and would from their ſituation require ſome time to make their arrangements, to diſcharge the taxes. He, however, ſhould not object to filling the blank with two months.

The motion for three being rejected, two months were agreed to.

The bill being gone through, was ordered to be engroſſed.

Mr. Hubly moved to reſume the conſideration of the bill for confirming and amending the charter of the German reformed congregation in Lancaſter.

Mr. Clymer objected to the preamble of the bill as he had done at a former day. The reaſon aſſigned therein, viz. that doubts had ariſen whether the charter was not vacated by non-uſer, were grounded upon the charter's having been granted by the late proprietaries----This was an aſſumption contrary to juſtice and to practice. There was, indeed, an inſtance of one charter having been ſuffered to be vacated ſilently at the revolution, not becauſe granted under the old form of government, but becauſe inconſiſtent with the new one. But could it be aſſerted that charters for incorporating churches and meeting houſes came under that deſcription? When people were ſubdued by a foreign power, there was a complete revolution of every thing, but when they altered the frame of their own government, they only rejected what was bad, retaining the good. Otherwiſe, by introducing anarchy and confuſion, they would be in a worſe ſituation than under their old ſyſtem. This was the reaſon for his oppoſition to the bill, and he thought it a juſt and ſufficient one.

This bill was, however, agreed to, and ordered to be engroſſed.

Mr. Whitehill read in his place ſeveral clauſes, which he propoſed to move to be added to the bill for amending the penal laws. As the members were not prepared to go into the diſcuſſion of them, and as he was not deſirous of hurrying them through the houſe, he moved they might lie on the table for the peruſal of the members.

Motion agreed to. Adjourned.

Monday, September 4, P. M.

General Irwin reported a bill to exonerate the owners of lands, the ſettlement whereof has been impeded and the value greatly leſſened by the influence of the diſturbances at Wyoming, from the payment of taxes aſſeſſed thereon ſince the year 1780. Read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Read, and ordered to lie on the table, the report of the committee, to whom had been referred the petitions for and againſt a removal of the ſeat of juſtice in Weſtmoreland, viz. "That it ought to remain at the place where it now is."

Agreeably to the order of the day, proceeded to the conſideration of the bill entitled, "an act for altering and amending an act to regulate the general elections of this commonwealth, and to prevent frauds therein."

The firſt enacting clauſe was read, and agreed to unanimouſly, as follows:

"Be it therefore enacted, &c. That from and after the publication of this act, at every of the general elections aforeſaid, or at any ſpecial election, to be holden for electing a repreſentative or repreſentatives, to ſit in the general aſſembly, or of a counſellor, the ſame election ſhall be holden and continue without interruption or adjournment, until the qualified electors, who ſhall come to the ſame election, ſhall have full opportunity to give in their reſpective votes."

The next clauſe was read, viz.

"And be it further enacted, &c. That the election of inſpectors, which by the ſaid recited act is limited to be cloſed, at the hour of ſix in the evening, appointed for holding the ſame, ſhall be kept open and continued until all the qualified electors, who ſhall come to the ſame election, ſhall have given in their ſeveral votes."

Mr. Whitehill thought the clauſe too vaguely worded. Electors might come to the place appointed, and not give in their votes for a long time, if at all. He therefore moved to inſert before the words "have given in their ſeveral votes," the words "have had ſufficient time to."

Mr. Gray was of opinion, if the amendment was adopted, diſputes would ariſe what ſhould be "a ſufficient time." That ought to be defined.

Mr. Lollar thought that it was neceſſary to fix two certain hours, between which the election ſhould be begun and ended.

The queſtion being put on Mr. Whitehill's motion, it was rejected.

Mr. Gray moved, that the election ſhould be kept open until ten o'clock.

Mr. Lollar hoped that motion would not be agreed to. The election of inſpectors had never been kept open ſo long.

Mr. Fitzſimons ſaid that there were numbers of perſons, particularly in the city, that were obliged to attend their daily labour, who would find it a hardſhip to be obliged to quit their buſineſs, for the purpoſe of voting, or elſe be debarred of a valuable privilege.---- Complaints on that head were made at the laſt general election.

Mr. Rittenhouſe was of opinion the clauſe might be ſo modified as to anſwer the views of all the gentlemen who had ſpoken, by allowing a longer time in the city than in the country.

The amendment was rejected, and the clauſe poſtponed.

The next ſection was then read as follows:

"And whereas it was alſo enacted and provided by the ſaid recited act, that the juſtices of the peace, of the city of Philadelphia, and the ſeveral counties, at their general quarter ſeſſions, ſhall nominate three able and intelligent freeholders, (reſiding within the diſtrict of any county, which is divided into diſtricts, for the purpoſe of holding elections, or otherwiſe reſiding within the county) as judges of election, to be holden in each diſtrict, or place, as aforeſaid.

"And whereas the ſaid mode of nominating, has been conſidered as a dangerous innovation in the former laws, which gave the appointment of the judges of election to inſpectors choſen by the freeholders.

"Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforeſaid, That the inſpectors of the reſpective wards and diſtricts, who ſhall be choſen in purſuance of the ſaid act, or a majority of them, ſhall, on the morning of the day of any election, at their meeting in the place appointed for the diſtricts to which they belong, chuſe and take to their aſſiſtance three reputable and diſcreet perſons, who, with the ſheriff or coroner (if he be preſent) ſhall be judges of the election.

Mr. Smilie ſaid the aſſertion in the introduction to this clauſe, that the newly adopted mode of nominating had been conſidered as a dangerous innovation, was not in proof before the houſe. It was not fact. On the contrary, he thought it a very great improvement. That part of the clauſe was totally unneceſſary; and he could not divine for what it had been introduced, unleſs it was meant to paſs a cenſure upon the late houſe. He therefore moved that thoſe words ſhould be eraſed.

Mr. Fitzſimons ſaid he had no objection to the eraſure of the words; they certainly conveyed a reflection on the late houſe, which he regarded as improper for one houſe to do to another. But he hoped the gentleman meant to ſubſtitute ſomething elſe in their ſtead, as a reaſon for the ſubſequent clauſe: otherwiſe it was evident it would be imperfect.

Two amendments were propoſed, one by Mr. Whitehill, to aſſign as a reaſon that the late mode had not been found "ſatisfactory," the other by Mr. Smilie, that it had not been found "convenient."

Mr. Clymer could not agree in the adoption of the latter expreſſion. For it would certainly be the moſt convenient mode to let the juſtices appoint the inſpectors and even the members of aſſembly. But it could not be ſaid to be either proper or conſtitutional. The houſe appeared diſpoſed to adopt the word ſatisfactory; and the gentlemen on the other ſide ſhould reſt ſatisfied with their acquieſcence therein, as it removed the cenſure levelled at the late houſe, by the clauſe as it ſtood originally.

Some further debate enſued, and at length the word "inexpedient" was agreed on.

Mr. Smilie moved to eraſe the words "with the ſheriff or coroner, if he be preſent." It was manifeſtly improper that perſons intereſted in a cauſe ſhould preſide as judges in the deciſion of it. Thoſe perſons were materially concerned in the event of the election, and might exert their influence to ſerve particular purpoſes.

Mr. Fitzſimons ſaid the ſheriff and coroner were the conſtitutional judges of election. He had never heard any complaints againſt them for abuſe of the truſt.---They were, it was true, intereſted in their own election, but not in the election of members of aſſembly more than any other freeholders. He did not think the houſe authoriſed to take away a privilege they had ſo long enjoyed by the conſtitution.

Mr. Smilie did not underſtand what the gentleman meant by conſtitutional judges. They were no more conſtitutional judges than any other perſons who might be appointed by that houſe. Beſides their being intereſted in the event of the election, there was another reaſon why they ſhould not be appointed judges. The counties were divided into diſtricts, and particular places appointed for the election to be held in each.---Now as the ſheriff or coroner could attend but one diſtrict, and as the election in all the others muſt be carried on without them, he thought their attendance might very well be diſpenſed with altogether. The ſheriff, in order to carry his own election, might join a party, and make a compact, if they aſſiſted him, he would aſſiſt them; and thus undue ſteps be taken. It had been ſaid that no complaints had been made of the abuſes of ſheriffs or coroners; he knew the contrary to be the caſe: but did not chooſe to enter into particulars.

Mr. Finlay said that as the very words of the clause were conditional, appointing the sheriff or coroner judges of election, if present, and as they could not attend in all the districts, he thought the words should be erased.

Motion agreed to: postponed the further consideration of the bill.

Adjourned.

Tuesday, Sept. 5, A. M.

On motion of Mr. Whitehill, read a third time the bill relative to the Scots Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia.

Mr. Fitzsimons remarked that since the publication of the bill, numbers of petitions and memorials had been presented to the house for and against it. It would be a very proper mark of respect to their constituents, to pay attention to their representations. He was therefore of opinion they should be referred to a committee to report thereon, for which purpose he moved that the further consideration of the bill should be postponed. This would save time, as otherwise the petitions which were very long, must be read at the table.

Mr. Clymer was not against the appointment of a committee, provided they were confined in their report to the arguments adduced by the petitioners and memorialists for and against the bill, without giving any opinion of their own, so as to make a new impression on the house.

Mr. Whitehill differed very materially in opinion from the gentleman who made the motion, which he conceived was out of order. Could the committee place the matter in a different point of view from that in which the house already had considered it? It would not save time to refer the papers to a committee, for after the report was made, a member would still have a right to call them up, one after another, so that it would rather waste time. He had never known an instance of a committee being appointed, after a bill had been published, to consider the allegations for or against it.

Mr. Fitzsimons was surprized to hear a gentleman so well acquainted with the practice of the house, assert that his motion was out of order. It was not; nor could it be said to be improper. To what purpose were bills published for consideration, if not to collect the sentiments of the public, and by them to regulate the proceedings of the house? He had no more desire than the worthy gentleman unnecessarily to protract the business or waste the time of the house; he only wished to proceed with due circumspection. The bill was an object of no consequence to him or that gentleman; but it was of the utmost importance to the parties concerned. He wished the matter fully and fairly discussed.

Mr. Finlay coincided in opinion with the worthy member, that the motion was not out of order; but he thought it quite unnecessary. A committee had been already appointed on the business, and had reported. The bill had been a long time published, and the members had every opportunity to acquire a perfect information, having heard the several papers relative to it, read over. He was therefore against the motion.

Mr. Whitehill rose to explain, and Mr. Smilie to oppose the motion, which was negatived.

Some of the memorials and petitions on the subject being read,

Mr. Clymer said he did not mean to call up any papers relative to the business before the house. It would take up their time and attention to no purpose, without throwing any new light upon the subject, which was in the same situation as when before the assembly, at its last session, with this single difference, that it was now introduced into the courts of law. Hence an objection had been offered to proceeding with the bill. Had this application to a trial at law, been a voluntary appeal of both parties, the objection might have weight; but one of them, it was plain, was forced into law, contrary to inclination. Moreover the application to a court of law, and that to the house of assembly, stood upon very different ground. The former was, to decide the purport of the charter and deed of trust; the latter, to alter the deed of trust itself. Whether such an alteration was proper or reasonable, the house were to determine. Their interposition, it had been said, was improper, as the affair involved religious disputes and matters of conscience. But it had no more to do with religion, than whether the church should be built of brick or stone. The question had no relation to matters of faith; it was, simply, whether the congregation should hold their property at the pleasure of persons beyond sea? And this idea was confirmed by what the remonstrants themselves said; they asserted that the subordinating clause involved no temporal or civil concerns. If it were so innocent in its operation, could there be any harm in expunging it? Why, then, manifest such a degree of anxiety and solicitude? Was there not an evident consistency in such conduct? But the clause in question certainly affected the civil rights of the members of the church, and subjected them to a foreign jurisdiction. He hoped the house would proceed with the bill.

Mr. Fitzsimons said, whatever anxiety he had shewn on the business, arose from a wish to avoid injustice. But if the petitioners for the bill were really sincere in their professions that their only object was to free themselves from a civil or temporal jurisdiction, he hoped no objection would be made to an amendment which he had to propose, which was, that instead of the words "pretends to subordinate the said church to any foreign jurisdiction whatsoever, in temporal concerns." He hoped this would meet the ideas of the gentleman who had spoken last, as it would effectually guard against the ostensible grievance complained of, at the same time that it would avoid the dangerous attempt of interfering in matters of discipline.

Mr. Clymer said, he entertained doubts whether this amendment would operate as effectually as the gentleman said. He begged to trace it in its consequences. Members of that congregation might be cut off from it by the ecclesiastical censures of the Scotch synod. Would they not then be affected in their property? How was it possible to discriminate?

Mr. Finlay. So far as the amendment differs from the original clause, it is neither safe nor necessary. The alteration proposed to be made in the charter, is not of a spiritual nature, and cannot affect men's consciences.

Mr. Fitzsimons declared his concern that he was single in his opposition to the bill; he wished the parties who had petitioned against it, had had a better advocate. He submitted to the consideration of the impartial part of the house, how far the declarations of the petitioners for the bill, correspond with this unwillingness to adopt the amendment he had proposed. They had repeatedly declared that their only wish was to secure their temporal concerns from the civil jurisdiction of foreigners. Now that this was proposed to be done effectually, it was objected to; it became evident that the object in view was to wrest the church from the persons whose religious principles were declared in the deed of trust, and to transfer it to those who held different principles. He did not pretend to controvert the right of any men to change their religious principles; but he never could agree, that, when a church was erected, and appropriated particularly for the professors of a certain form of religious worship, it should afterwards be converted to the use of those who differed in religious sentiments.

Mr. Finlay said it would not be necessary to enter into the state of the case largely, to prove the necessity of passing the bill. But as an idea had been held out that it was intended to convey the church property to persons of a different religious persuasion, it would be necessary to give a narrative of the origin of the contest. The church government and discipline of the congregation of Scots Presbyterians in Philadelphia, were exactly the same as those of all the other Presbyterians in the state. The deed of trust was no part of their creed. Presbyterian principles admitted a practical subordination only where there was a real representation; now as the associate presbytery had never had a seat in the synod of Edinburgh, there could not be a real subordination. In the deed of trust published by that body, there was, indeed, a clause, however introduced, which bound them to a subordination to the synod of Edinburgh. This, before the revolution, had not created any alarm, as Scotland was not then considered as a foreign nation, they regarding all the British dominions as one realm. But by the revolution she had become alien to this country; and had shewed herself particularly hostile towards America, during the war. It would therefore for these reasons, be improper to remain in a state of subordination to her synod: as the exercise of the privilege of excommunication would affect the temporalities of the members of the congregation. The suspicions which he had already mentioned, that had been artfully excited, as if the friends of the bill meant to convert the church to the use of the professors of another system of religion, were not warranted by the tenor of the bill, which did not dissolve their religious observances, nor liberate them from their profession of faith. After independence had been declared, the brethren of the seceding persuasion having formed a coalition with three ministers of the covenanters, met for the purpose of constituting their different presbyteries into a synod. After agreeing on every other question, it was put to the vote, if they should be subordinate to the synod of Edinburg, and decided in the negative by a great majority. It was at the same time agreed that a brotherly connection and correspondence might still subsist between them; but that a practical and real subordination was inadmissible. Two of the ministers protested and appealed to the synod of Edinburgh, who approved their appeal, and acted under it. it was, however, rejected by the majority of their own presbytery, upon which they withdrew, and constituted themselves into a separate presbytery, assuming the title of the associate presbytery of Pennsylvania, by which schismatic conduct they subjected themselves to the censures of the church, which, through moderation, were not exercised. He concluded with remarking, that if voting for and supporting a subordination to a foreign jurisdiction, on one side by the minority, and rejecting it on the other by the majority, designated two different religions, they were different: if not, they were still of the same faith.

Mr. Clymer said he rose to make some observations on what had fallen from the last speaker but one, that church property was to follow the original doctrines or principles in case of a change of religion of the members. This was, he said, a very extraordinary sentiment, particularly in a country so liable to change as this. Suppose, demanded he, the whole society of Quakers became Presbyterians. what should become of their meeting houses and various endowments? Must they all escheat to the state, because there was no person to represent their former doctrines? Suppose the door keeper was the only person adhering to their old tenets, was he alone to be entitled to their property? What in this case would become of the episcopalians, who had rejected many articles of the church of England, broke the chain which connected them with the hierarchy of that church; and set up a new establishment? Were those few who dissented from the alteration, to have the property of the episcopal churches? No such idea had ever been entertained. This was a case that applied to that before the house.

The amendment was rejected, yeas 21, nays 41.

Some uninteresting conversation took place on a motion made by Dr. Logan, that the petitioners against the bill, should be heard by council. This was opposed by messrs. Fitzsimons, Finlay, Smilie, and Whitehill, and was at length negatived.

The several parts of the bill were then gone thro', and agreed to, and it was ordered to be engrossed.

Adjourned.

(To be continued in our next.)

Foreign Intelligence.

LONDON. August 5.

IT is a fact that considerable remittances of money have been made from America within these few weeks; but the American trade is grievously distressed by the Algerine rovers. The dey publicly declared to the envoy sent by the Americans to make peace, 'That he knew no such nation as the American independent states.'

Yesterday the Cæsar, captain Gibbs, from Philadelphia, arrived at her moorings off Iron Gate, in 23 days from land to land. By the accounts of the passengers, the reports of the affair of Detroit are confirmed; where it seems, out of three hundred Americans that had possessed themselves by surprise of that post, only three escaped the fury of the Indians and the British troops. When the ship left Philadelphia early in July, trade was very dead and money very scarce, notwithstanding which, the Cæsar has brought a considerable quantity of dollars.

By the Deptford we have received the following intelligence: That in February last a most dreadful storm of thunder and lightning happened in the neighbourhood of Seringapatam, the capital of the late Tippo Saib's dominions: during the storm a very large magazine was struck by lightning, which immediately took fire, and spread so rapidly that one third of the town was consumed before the alarm was given, and many of the people threw themselves in the flames through despair, rather choosing to end their existence than survive the loss of their relations and property

American Occurrences.

NEW-YORK, October 13.

The late outrageous proceedings of the mobs in the government of New-Hampshire and Massachusetts, are circumstances to be regretted, as severity is undoubtedly a disagreeable mode of obtaining obedience to government.

It is said the honorable the Congress, upon a consideration that major general John Sullivan was exposed to great and extraordidary expences in the service during the late war, resolved, that the state of New-Hampshire be recommended to pay him 4300 dollars, and charge the same to the United States.

PHILADELPHIA, October 19.

On Wednesday last a court of oyer and terminer, and a court of nisi prius were held at Norris-town, for the new county of Montgomery, before the honorable William Augustus Atlee, and George Bryan, esqrs. judges of the supreme court of Pennsylvania.

Their honors were met at the line of Philadelphia county by the sheriff and coroner of Montgomery, and their officers, the lieutenant of the county, and a de-

tachment of the troop of horſe, under the command of the hon. James Morris, esq; captain of the troop, and preſident of the court of common pleas for the county, and by them eſcorted to the county town.---Twenty-two of a moſt reſpectable grand jury anſwered at the firſt call, the only two abſentees having ſent reaſonable excuſe.

A bill was preſented againſt Philip Hoofnagle, for burglary, who was convicted by the traverſe jury, on the cleareſt teſtimony. He was, after a very pathetic and inſtructive admonition from the bench, ſentenced to five years hard labour, under the new act of aſſembly. It was with ſome difficulty that this reprobate was prevailed upon to take the election of labour inſtead of the halter----a convincing proof that the puniſhments directed by the new law are more terrifying to theſe vagabonds than all the horrors of an ignominious death. As ſoon as the criminal was removed to the gaol, his head was ſhaved, and he will, when cloathed in the criminal's dreſs, be put to work.

A bill was alſo ſent againſt Catharine Mecklin, for the murder of her baſtard child, and returned ignoramus.

The judges diſmiſſed the grand jury with their warmeſt approbation and thanks for the faithful diſcharge of the important duties they were ſummoned to perform; and with a well deſerved encomium upon the order, and regularity with which every ſpectator and attendant on the court behaved.

Their honors were conducted by the ſheriff and a party of the troop of horſe as far as the county line of Berks, on their way to Northumberland.

Pittſburgh, November 4.

Friday evening the 27th ult. arrived in this town, the hon. Thomas M'Kean and Jacob Ruſh, eſquires, judges of the ſupreme court, and on Sunday proceeded to Hannas's town, there to hold a court of oyer and terminer, &c. for Weſtmoreland county.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman reſiding in Ohio County to his friend in this town.

"I happened the other day to be at friend's houſe, and ſeeing the Pittſburgh Gazette of October 14, I had a curioſity to peruſe it, after reading it ſometime I came to an extract of a letter, under the head of Pittſburgh, from a gentleman in the county to his friend in that place, giving him an account of an excurſion he had with John Montour a trapping for beavers and recommending the neceſſity of calling a treaty with them, in order to conſult on the moſt eligible way to procure their fur; I muſt acknowledge myſelf to be of the ſame opinion, and am fully convinced, that the expence would not amount to one-fourth as much as treating with the Indians, and the reſult could not be worſe, but might be much more to the intereſt of the United States; for we have had experience enough to know that the Indians pay reſpect to treaties no longer than they anſwer their intereſt or convenience.

"Since the ordinance for regulating the trade with the Indians has been publiſhed, it has been the general talk through this neighbourhood, and has almoſt put poor Jemmy Racoon (an old Indian trader) out of his head, as trading with the ſavages is the only way he has to ſupport a wife and ſix children. He ſays he will now have to pay fifty dollars for permiſſion to go and trade, and if he never can raiſe articles more than the value of double that ſum to trade upon, and then has to run every riſk of part of them being ſtole. I think if the ordinance had a clauſe inſerted in it promiſing to make up every loſs of that kind, it would be much better received by the people in general, and to ſe whoſe only ſupport is in trading with the ſavages in particular."

From the INDEPENDENT CHRONICLE.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE INSURRECTION!

An Account of the Inſurrection in the State of New-Hampſhire, which took place laſt week. Written by a gentleman who was preſent.

IN the beginning of the year 1785, the complaints of the unhappy people, who had contracted debts during the time of the too great plenty of money, induced the legiſlature to paſs an act, making very ſpecies of property a tender, at an apprized value. It was ſoon, however, found from experience that this act were to no other purpoſe, but to prevent demand on the part of the creditors, and a neglect on the part of the debtors, to diſcharge their juſt debts. The ſcarcity of money ſtill remained a complaint; for as far as goods and real property were ſubſtituted a medium in commerce, ſo far ſpecie, of courſe, failed to circulate; and credit being thus injured, the money-holders turned their keys on that caſh, which might otherwiſe have been loaned to the needy.

In Auguſt a convention of committees from about thirty towns aſſembled and agreed upon, and preferred to the general court a long petition, ſetting forth their grievances on account of the ſcarcity of money, and praying for an emiſſion of paper bills of credit, in which there is no ſingle trace of an idea of redemption, or any one attempt to give the currency a foundation; but the whole ſeems predicated on a ſuppoſition that the general court by a mere act of legiſlation, by *words* and *ſigns*, *could impreſs an intrinſic value upon paper*; which is as fully abſurd as it would be to ſuppoſe, that the legiſlature had the power of Midas, and could from a ſingle touch, turn ſtones and ſticks into gold: their great object was, however, to have this paper a tender for all debts and taxes, and no plan is hinted, by which the people are to get this money out of the treaſury; but it rather ſeems that they expected the general court to apportion it among the people at large.

The legiſlature formed a plan for the emiſſion of twenty thouſand pounds, to be let out at 4 per cent. and land ſecurity redeemable at a future period, carrying an intereſt at 6 per cent. and to be a tender in taxes for the internal ſupport of the ſtate, and for fees and ſalaries of the officers of government. This plan was ſent as early as the fourteenth of September, to the ſeveral towns, to collect their minds upon the ſubject.

On 20th inſtant, at four o'clock in the afternoon, about 400 men on horſe back and on foot, entered the town of Exeter, where the general court were ſitting; about 50 of them, or perhaps more, were armed with muſkets, and the others with bludgeons; their principal leader appeared to be one Moſes French, a farmer of Hampſtead, aided by one Coffin, a major in the militia, and two or three others: they affected military parade, and had a drum: after they had halted a while, they ſent a paper into the houſe of repreſentatives, who were convened in the meeting houſe, demanding an anſwer to their former petition without delay; it was dated on Exeter Plain, and ſigned Moſes French, moderator.

The houſe appointed a committee of three, to be joined by a committee from the ſenate to take the matter into conſideration. This vote the ſenate unanimouſly non-concurred. Whereupon a conference took place in the meeting houſe, between the two branches of the legiſlature. The preſident, (general Sullivan) being ex officio, a ſenator, opened the matter, by giving publicly, in the hearing of the people, and as many of the mob as choſe to attend, the reaſons on which the ſenate non-concurred the vote of the houſe. He firſt conſidered the petition, and therein with great ſtrength of reaſoning, and very cooly, the extreme folly, as well as the very great injuſtice of the prayer of their former petition. And alſo obſerved, that even if the meaſure was juſt and reaſonable, the general court ought not to pay attention to it, merely from having the voice of thirty towns only, out of two hundred, in favor of it. He concluded by ſaying, that if the voice of the whole ſtate was for the meaſure yet the legiſlature ought not to comply with it while they were ſurrounded by an armed force. To do it, would be to betray the rights of the people, which they had all ſolemnly engaged to ſupport, and that no conſideration of perſonal danger ſhould ever compel him to ſo flagrant a violation of the conſtitutional rights of the people, who had placed him in the chair of government.

As ſoon as this ſpeech was made, the mob beat to arms, and ſurrounded the meeting houſe, where the preſident, the ſenate and the houſe remained: thoſe of the mob who had muſkets, were ordered to charge with balls, which command they inſtantly obeyed.---The houſe proceeded to buſineſs as uſual, without taking any manner of notice of the management at the doors. Centinels were placed at each door, with fixed bayonets, and the whole legiſlature were priſoners. After ſun ſet the preſident attempted to come out but was prevented by a firm column. He reaſoned very cooly with them on the impropriety and fatal tendency of their conduct, and aſſured them that the force of the ſtate would ſupport the government: which they took leave to deny with as much confidence as he aſſerted it. Thus all remained till the evening was quite dark; the minds of the ſober part of the people began to raiſe at the indignity! while the mob clamoured, ſome paper money, ſome an equal diſtribution of property, ſome the annihilation of debts, ſome releaſe of all taxes, and all clamoured againſt law and government. A drum was now heard at a diſtance, and a number of men huzzaing for government. The mob appeared frighted, and ſome of them began to run; the preſident told them he would prevent bloodſhed, and walked through them, and the general court followed.

On this the inſurgents returned to another part of the town, and the legiſlature, who had throughout the whole, acted with the moſt inimitable firmneſs and magnanimity, reaſſumed their buſineſs, and requeſted the preſident to call forth the power of the ſtate to quell the rebellion. At eleven in the evening he iſſued his orders, and by ſun riſe the next morning the militia were marching in, well armed, with military muſic, and other incidents to military movements. The major and brigadier generals of all the ſtate, excepting one, whoſe great remoteneſs from the ſcene of action prevented him, aſſembled early in the morning; the gentlemen of the firſt rank and education, emulous to ſave a government for which they had done, and ſuffered ſo much, appeared either on foot or horſe in order, and enthuſiaſm, quite inexpreſſible by words, appeared through the whole. About ten o'clock the preſident, attended by the general officers, followed by ſeveral companies, advanced towards the inſurgents who were drawn up at a tavern, in the outer part of the town: there was no conflict, the mob fled, and nothing was to be done but to pick up the priſoners. A number fled and made a ſtand at a bridge. General Cilly ſoon came up with them, ruſhed in and ſeized their leaders. One of whom ordered them to fire, but government appeared with ſuch force that they dared not to obey. About forty of them were made priſoners and are now in gaol to be tried for high treaſon---the reſt are fled to their lurking places, from whence they muſt be dragged to an ignominious death, unleſs the clemency of government ſhall pity and ſave them. By this time there were more than 2000 men in arms, about 300 of them were horſe; all ready to make any reſcue to preſerve legal government, and the due execution of the laws. The ſentiment was conſtantly re-echoed, "How can we live without government, and ſhall we give ourſelves up to a MOB?" If the legiſlature appeared magnanimous the day before, *A free Government, the people's Government*, ſhone with a ſplendor and glory, that never was before equalled.

September 28, 1786.

Meſſrs. SCULL & HALL,

FOR the ſatisfaction of perſons who have entruſted me with buſineſs in the way of law, I take the liberty to mention in your paper, that I ſhall return from Philadelphia before the next ſitting of the county courts, and attend them.

H. H. BRACKENRIDGE.

Pittſburgh, October 30, 1786.

To be ſold at public vendue, by Wilſon and Wallace, on Saturday the 2d of December, at the Houſe of William Wilſon, in Pittſburgh, the following Goods, the property of Mr. Valck. There will be ſix months credit given for all ſums exceeding twenty ſhillings, by giving bond with ſufficient ſecurity.

ELEVEN yards calico, 29 and a quarter ditto blue cloath, 15 do. red, 41 and an half do. ſwanſkin, 4 and a quarter do. ſuperfine ſcarlet, 605 flints, 56 white ruffled ſhirts, 64 do. 18 calico do. 153 calico do. 78 doz. ſilver broaches, 21 5-12 doz ear-rings, 8 ſilver lockets, 5 doz. looking glaſſes, No. 5. 1 and three quarter doz. do No. 4. 3 and a half doz. do. No. 3. 2 and a quarter doz. do. No. 2. 800 needles, 3 plated ſpurs, 2 groſs womens thimbles, 1 do. do. 11 and two-thirds doz. mens do. 4 and two fifths bundles braſs wire, 9 and three-quarters do. 56 oval gilt looking glaſſes, 2 groſs metal bells, half a pound knitting needles, 2 hair trunks, 11 ſaddles, 7 and a quarter pieces garters, 3 groſs herring bone lace, one tent 5 and an half ounces brown thread, 1 and three quarters pound coloured do. 1 and one ſixth of a doz. horn combs, 5 and 7-12 doz. Indian awls, 5 ſteel beaver traps, 3 do. with chains, 9 powder horns, 3 dozen butcher knives, 1 and two-thirds of a doz. ſcalping knives, 75 fiſh hooks, 65 do 50 do. 200 do. 375 do. 5lb. beſt vermillion, 648 lb. lead, 19 braſs kettles, 51lb. gun powder, 7 kegs do. 1lb 9 ounces barley corn, 4 and a half ounces ſeeds, 3 do. agath. 7 blankets, 1 pair of ſcales. Nov. 3.

FOUR DOLLARS REWARD.

STRAYED from the lands of Bruſh Creek on the 14th of September laſt, a dark bay Gelding, 3 years old, about 14 and a half hands high, a natural trotter, has a ſnip and ſtar, ſcarcely perceivable, carries well, his hind feet white, a long buſhy tail.---Whoever takes up ſaid gelding, and delivers him to Mr. John Irwin, at Bruſh Creek, or the ſubſcriber in Pittſburgh, ſhall receive the above reward and reaſonable charges, paid by

GEORGE COCHRAN.

October 26, 1786.

N. B. Said Gelding is branded with W.

To the County Commiſſioners in Weſtmoreland.

THE ſubſcriber is apprehenſive of a miſtake of the name of Samuel inſtead of Matthew, in your liſt of arrearages for tax in Fairfield Townſhip. As I have a place in that townſhip, and the tax for 1785, the ſame ſum as in your liſt, I have paid, though in public it ſtands againſt me, and there is only five ſhillings and nine pence due, which you ſhall have the firſt opportunity I have of conveyance; but if you cannot wait, pleaſe to call on captain Morton or major Wilſon, and they will pay this for once rather than a plantation ſhould be ſold for five ſhillings and nine pence. This gentlemen is only on the ſuppoſition of a miſtake of the name, from your's,

MATTHEW HENDERSON.

Chartiers, Waſhington County,
October 23, 1786.

An ENQUIRY into the EFFECTS of SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS upon the HUMAN BODY, and their INFLUENCE upon the HAPPINESS of SOCIETY. By BENJAMIN RUSH, M. D. Professor of Chemistry in the University of Philadelphia.

BY spirits I mean all those liquors which are obtained by distillation from fermented juices or substances of any kind. These liquors were formerly used only in medicine. They now constitute a principal part of the drinks of many countries.

Since the introduction of spirituous liquors into such general use, physicians have remarked that a number of new diseases have appeared among us, and have described many new symptoms as common to old diseases. Spirits in their first operation are stimulating upon the system. They quicken the circulation of the blood, and produce some heat in the body. Soon afterwards, they become what is called sedative: that is, they diminish the action of the vital powers, and thereby produce languor and weakness.

The effects of spirituous liquors upon the human body, in producing diseases, are sometimes gradual. A strong constitution, especially if it be aided with exercise and hard labor, will counteract the destructive effects of spirits for many years, but in general they produce the following diseases:

1. A sickness at the stomach, and vomiting in the morning. This disorder is generally accompanied with a want of appetite for breakfast. It is known by tremors in the hands, insomuch that persons who labour under it, are hardly able to lift a teacup to their heads, till they have taken a dose of some cordial liquor. In this disorder, a peculiar paleness, with small red streaks, appear in the cheeks. The flesh of the face, at the same time, has a peculiar fulness and flabbiness, which are very different from sound and healthy fat.

2. An universal dropsy. This disorder begins first in the lower limbs, and gradually extends itself thro' out the whole body. I have been told that the merchants in Charleston, in South-Carolina, never trust the planters when spirits have produced the first symptom of this second disorder upon them. It is very natural to suppose that industry and virtue have become extinct in that man, whose legs and feet are swelled, from the use of spirituous liquors.

3. Obstruction of the liver. This disorder produces other diseases, such as an inflammation, which sometimes proves suddenly fatal; the jaundice, and a dropsy of the belly.

4. Madness. It is unnecessary to describe this disease with all its terrors and consequences. It is well known in every township, where spirituous liquors are used.

5. The palsy. 6. the apoplexy, and 7. the epilepsy, complete the group of diseases produced by spirituous liquors. I do not assert that these disorders are never produced by any other causes, but I maintain that spirituous liquors are the most frequent causes of them, and that when a predisposition to them is produced by other causes, they are rendered more certain and more dangerous by the intemperate use of spirits.

I have only named a few of the principal disorders produced by spirituous liquors. It would take up a volume to describe how much other disorders natural to the human body, are encreased and complicated by them. Every species of inflammatory and putrid fever, is rendered more obstinate by the use of spirituous liquors.

The danger to life from the diseases which have been mentioned is well known. I do not think it extravagant therefore to repeat here, what has been often said, that spirituous liquors destroy more lives than the sword. War has its intervals of destruction; but spirits operate at all times, and seasons upon human life. The ravages of war are confined but to one part of the human species, viz. to men, but spirits act too often upon persons who are exempted from the dangers of war by age or sex; and lastly, war destroys only those persons who allow the use of arms to be lawful, whereas spirits insinuate their fatal effects among people, whose principles are opposed to the effusion of human blood.

Let us next turn our eyes from the effects of spirits upon health and life, to their effects upon property; and here fresh scenes of misery open to our view. Among the inhabitants of cities, they produce debts, disgrace and bankruptcy. Among farmers, they produce idleness with its usual consequences, such as houses without windows, barns without roofs, gardens without enclosures, fields without fences, hogs without yokes, sheep without wool, meagre cattle, feeble horses, and half clad dirty children without principles, morals or manners. This picture is not exaggerated. I appeal to the observations of every man in Pennsylvania, whether such scenes of wretchedness do not follow the tracks of spirituous liquors, in every part of the state.

If we advance one step further and examine the effects of spirituous liquors upon the moral faculty, the prospect will be still more distressing and terrible. The first effects of spirits upon the mind shew themselves in the temper. I have constantly observed men who are intoxicated in any degree with spirits to be peevish and quarrelsome; after a while they lose by degrees the moral sense. They violate promises and engagements without shame or remorse. From these deficiencies in veracity and integrity, they pass on to crimes of a more heinous nature. It would be to dishonor human nature only to name them.

(To be continued in our next.)

TEN dollars reward. Stolen out of the pasture of the subscriber living in Letterkenny township, Franklin county, about four miles from Chambersburgh, on the night of the 30th August last, a brigh bay mare, eleven years old, about 15 hands high, trots well, carries lofty, a star in her forehead, black main and tail, her main hangs on both sides of her neck one of her fore hoofs split. She is marked on one side with the chains, and I think on both, left a young colt at home. Whoever takes up said mare and secures the thief so that he may be brought to justice and the owner have his mare, shall have the above reward, for the mare only eight dollars and reasonable charges, paid by ALBERT TORRENCE, or James Torrence in Washington county, three miles from Pittsburgh. Oct. 21.

TO be sold by the subscriber living in Washington county, on the waters of ten mile creek, two miles from Camp's mill, and six from Washington, a plantation containing four hundred acres, of which 80 is clear, and under good fence, ten acres made into meadow, a dwelling house, 30 by 20; with a double stone chimney, two rooms on a floor, a double barn, kitchen and a weaver's shop, with other out houses. There is a patent for the same. TIMOTHY RYAN. Oct. 21.

Just opened and to be sold by the subscriber living on the bank of the river, between Mr. David Duncan's and Mr. John Ormsby's.

A LARGE *and general assortment of* DRY *and* WET GOODS, *which he will dispose of on the most reasonable terms for cash, country produce, peltry or ginseng.* JOHN GIBSON.

SECRETARY's OFFICE.

Philadelphia, August 31, 1786.

NOTICE is hereby given, That agreeably to the 16th section of an act of general assembly, entitled, "An act for directing the mode of distributing "the donation lands promised to the troops by the "commonwealth," return has been made to council of the draughts of lots laid down within the limits of the lands, and that it is now ordered, "That the drawing of the lottery for, and the patenting of the said "lots, shall commence on the 1st day of October "next; to be continued for one year from the 29th "instant." JOHN ARMSTRONG, jun. secry.

CERTIFICATES for the LAND OFFICE

MAY *be had of the subscriber, at his office in Market-street, between Fourth and Fifth streets, nearly opposite the sign of the Black Bear, where every person applying may be furnished with the exact sum they may have occasion for in the land-office, and their warrants carried through without any other charge than the fees of the different offices, by*

THOMAS FORREST.

Who buys and sells all kinds of CERTIFICATES of this state, or any of the United States.

Philadelphia, Sept. 2, 1786.

Pittsburgh, July 10, 1786.

THE Partnership of CRAIG, BAYARD, & Co. having dissolved the 1st instant; all persons indebted to them by Bond, Note, or Book Account, are hereby earnestly requested to settle the same with DANIEL BRITT & Co. Contractors, at Pittsburgh; who are fully authorised and empowered to receive and discharge them; and all Persons who have Claims against the said CRAIG, BAYARD & Co. are desired to apply for settlement as aforesaid.

Their Country Customers are hereby informed, that PRODUCE will be taken in discharge of their Debts at the Cash Price, if delivered on or before the 1st day of October next; and all Accounts that are not discharged on or before that Time, will be put into the hands of an Attorney, without respect of Persons: they therefore hope, from the indulgence already given that such disagreeable measures will be avoided.

Philadelphia, September 2, 1786.

MATHEW M'CONNELL, *at his office on the east side of Second-street, between Market and Chesnut streets, seven doors below Black-Horse alley, buys and sells the various kinds of Continental and State CERTIFICATES, different emissions of* OLD PAPER MONEY *and* FACILITIES: *also,* HOUSES, LOTS *and* LANDS: *receives applications for lending and borrowing* MONEY, *&c. And negociates every kind of business for the usual and customary commissions.*

All applications and orders will be carefully executed whether to make purchases or sales, payments in the land-office, or to receive interest at the continental loan-office or state treasury.

People residing in any part of this, or of the United States, may, by sending written orders, have their business transacted with fidelity and dispatch.

The subscriber having declined all other business, will devote his whole time and attention to the duties aforesaid, and pledges himself to do every thing in his power to render his office and services as useful as possible to all who may please to call upon him.

It is requested that all orders for disposal of real estates, may be reduced to writing (accompanied with authentic draughts of survey) setting forth the description and terms, of which an entry will be made in register books kept for that purpose.

DANIEL BRITT & Co.

Have for Sale, a General Assortment of

MERCHANDIZE,

WHICH will be Sold on reasonable Terms for Cash, Flour, Whisky, Beef, Pork, Bacon, Wheat, Rye, Oats, Corn, Ashes, Candlewick, Tallow, &c. &c. Pittsburgh, July 28.

GINGSENG.

A QUANTITY of good GINSENG wanted by the subscribers, for which a generous Price will be allowed in Merchandize.

It must not be dried in an oven, or in any manner that will dry it too quickly: the roots must be kept as whole as possible.

DANIEL BRITT & Co. Contractors.

ALL persons who have open accounts with the subscribers are hereby requested to produce them for settlement; and such as are indebted to them and do not make payment thereof before the 30th day of November next, will have their accounts immediately put in suit. As they wish to decline business here, the remaining part of their goods will be sold cheap for money.

WM. & THOS. GRENOUGH.

Pittsburgh, Oct. 2d, 1786.

TO be sold, several valuable tracts of land, lying in the county of Westmoreland, viz. One tract situate on the Alleghany river, known by the name of Crettier's landing: two tracts near the confluence of the Kiskiminetas and Alleghany rivers: two tracts on the waters of Crooked Creek: one tract on the waters of Beaver run, about eight miles from Hanna's-town, and one tract on Black-lick creek, opposite Mr Bracken's mill. Any person inclining to take a lease of any of the above tracts of land, may know the terms by applying to the subscriber living in Pittsburgh, who is fully authorised to lease the same. JOHN FINLEY.

Pittsburgh, Oct. 11, 1786.

THE PITTSBURGH ALMANAC,

Now in the Press, and will be published in convenient time.

THE observations of Rittenhouse, Ewing and Elliot at their Observatory at the end of Mason and Dixon's line, have enabled us to give the places and appearances of the heavenly bodies in the meridian of this western country with exactness. The weather it will not be in our power to determine with great certainty this year, as no account of the seasons has been yet regularly taken to the west of the mountains by hydrometer, barometer, or thermometer: However we shall still be nearer the truth than the Almanacs published elsewhere.

THIRTY dollars reward. Deserted, September 6, 1786, from Little Beaver, on the Ohio David Jones, sergeant, 5 feet 8 inches high, twenty six years of age, light hair, grey eyes, well proportioned, says he was born in England, his place of residence Connecticut. He is a temperate, decent looking man: at the time he deserted he stole a valuable mare, saddle and bridle. Whoever secures the above described person shall have the above reward.

JOHN MERCER, capt. 1st A. regt. in the service of the United States.

Fort M'Intosh, Oct. 6, 1786.

N. B. As there are some peculiar instances of rascality in this man's conduct, the several printers are requested to insert this advertisement.

PITTSBURGH: *Printed and Sold by* JOHN SCULL *and* JOSEPH HALL, *at their Printing-Office in Water-street, near the Ferry, where* Subscriptions (at 17/6 per ann.) Advertisements, *&c. for this Paper, are thankfully received, and* PRINTING *in its different Branches is done with Care, Elegance, and Expedition.*—ADVERTISEMENTS not exceeding a Square are Inserted Three Weeks for a Dollar, and every continuance after one fourth of a Dollar; those exceeding a square are inserted in proportion.